

North Fork Lewis River Watershed

Pup Creek

Pup Creek is a Cedar Creek tributary with its headwaters on Green Mountain ridge, north of Cedar Creek. Pup Creek flows west and joins Cedar Creek about four miles above Cedar Creek's confluence with the North Fork Lewis River. Pup Creek's drainage area is about 70 percent forested and the stream channel is generally lined with shade-providing trees.

Pup Creek does not have any field data describing stream health. Based on the limited amount of development and the large amount of forest in the drainage area, Pup Creek's health should be good to excellent.

Management objectives for Pup Creek

- Keeping forestlands as timberlands
- Ensuring that any residential development occurs only on lots of several acres



Cedar Creek

Cedar Creek originates in private forestland east of Amboy. Downstream, it has two main tributaries, Chelatchie Creek and Pup Creek. Below its confluence with Chelatchie Creek, Cedar Creek flows through a rural valley between wooded ridges. For its last three miles, Cedar Creek cascades through a rocky, forested canyon. The historic Grist Mill uses water diverted from these falls to turn the mill's grindstone.

The basin is nearly 55 percent forest, and 37 percent grass, fields, and shrubs. Amboy and Chelatchie Prairie are in the upper part of the basin and scattered residences and farms cover about eight percent of Cedar Creek's drainage area. Streamside trees provide cooling shade for most of the stream, but there are sections that lack good shade, mainly between Amboy and the lower segment of the creek.

Cedar Creek health is good in its upper reaches based on streambed insect samples near Yacolt. Monitoring near the Grist Mill, at the lower end of the basin, suggests human activities have degraded stream health to an overall fair rating based on streambed insects, bacteria, and water chemistry.

Management objectives for Cedar Creek

- Preserving timberlands
- Reforesting unused farmland
- Streamside tree planting
- Minimizing forest clearing during development
- Minimizing runoff from construction projects

North Fort Lewis River Watershed
Stream Health 2003

Stream Health Ratings	Description	Land Cover Key
Excellent	Pristine, superior, or unsurpassed condition; minimal human disturbance	Forest
Good	Healthy enough to support aquatic life and recreation	Grass/Shrubs
Fair	Degraded but may support aquatic life and recreation	Residential/Recently cleared land
Poor	Inferior health, poorly suited for aquatic life and recreation	Commercial/Industrial
Very Poor	Severely degraded health; unsuitable for aquatic life or recreation	
Unassessed	No data collected	
Probable	Predicted stream health	

Chelatchie Creek

Chelatchie Creek is a major tributary to Cedar Creek, joining it in Amboy. The creek starts in hills south of Tumtum Mountain and flows westerly for six miles along the south side of Chelatchie Prairie. A north branch of the creek drains the northern side of Chelatchie Prairie. The two streams join near Amboy Middle School, about one-half mile above Chelatchie Creek's confluence with Cedar Creek. Chelatchie Prairie is largely grass fields and pastures, with rural residences between forested hillsides. About half of the Chelatchie Creek drainage area is forest.

Based on data collected during the last two years near Chelatchie Creek's confluence with Cedar Creek, Chelatchie Creek is in good health. Water chemistry testing resulted in a good rating, and harmful bacteria ratings were excellent. Biologic samples of streambed insects rated fair. Streamside trees that provide cooling summer shade line most of Chelatchie Creek.

Management objectives for Chelatchie Creek

- Keeping existing forest lands as timberlands
- Reforesting unused farm land
- Planting streamside trees
- Minimizing runoff from new construction
- Minimizing clearing during development